

SIEMON FIRED FROM FUEL BOARD AND PARDY APPOINTED TO OFFICE

Had Disagreement With
Judge Wheeler Over
Local Coal Line.

**THOMAS J. PARDY
MADE SUCCESSOR**

Sheehan Tells of Talk
Overheard Regarding
the Resignation.

Carl F. Siemon was today ousted as Bridgeport fuel administrator by State Administrator Thomas W. Russell at the request of the State Council of Defense, following closely on the heels of the recent Siemon-Wheeler controversy that started over the former's refusal to change the coal distribution methods as suggested by the latter. Letter revoking Siemon's appointment fails to give a reason for the action.

The entire affair was hatched on the night of the Manufacturers' banquet, February 26, in the Stratfield, at which Russell was a guest at Siemon's table. It is learned on well founded authority that his resignation was discussed by several Bridgeport men with Russell after the banquet. The day following Russell visited Siemon at the fuel office and praised his work highly. He then requested Siemon to resign, but the latter refused to be ousted without a reason.

This conversation was heard by the secretary, William E. Sheehan, who in an interview with The Times today tells an interesting story of the "inside history." Sheehan said: "It took Russell two weeks to get enough nerve to write the letter. I was present," he continued, "when Mr. Russell asked Mr. Siemon's resignation. His only reason was the Judge Wheeler affair."

"He said the Council of Defense," Sheehan went on, "had put it up to him that either Judge Wheeler would resign if Mr. Siemon would not, Russell then went on to say that Governor Wolcott thought it best that Siemon being a layman should resign in preference to a supreme court justice."

"When Russell was asked," said Sheehan, "What the State Council of Defense had to do with the fuel administration, Russell said that it had been co-operating with him and as he had received his appointment through the State Council he decided to stand by it. Siemon then asked Russell why he did not make an investigation of the Wheeler charges and Russell said he was pressed for time and could not visit the different offices."

"Then Russell said," Sheehan's statement goes, "Siemon's administration could not be better and he was perfectly satisfied with it in every way and was sorry he was forced to ask him to resign. Then Siemon, like the man that he is," said Sheehan, "told Russell that if he had no other reason than that he would not resign and if Russell wanted him ousted he'd have to fire him out."

"Russell was asked for a letter the same day, but as I said before," says Sheehan, "it has taken him two weeks to get his nerve together." Concluding Sheehan said, "It was a very peculiar thing that Russell was in Bridgeport the day after the banquet, because the night before he told Siemon and myself he was in a hurry to get back to Hartford and would take a train leaving some time after 11 o'clock. He had no idea of staying in this city over night."

When informed of the state administrator's action, Allen E. Vincent, vice-chairman of the Coal Dealers' committee, said, "As a coal dealer I am very, very sorry to hear that Mr. Siemon's appointment has been revoked. Mr. Siemon has done exceptionally well. His methods have been excellent and he deserves much praise and commendation. There seems to be a blunder somewhere."

Russell's letter to Siemon reads as follows: "Dear Sir: I have to advise you that your employment as a member and chairman of the Bridgeport Fuel Committee, dated October 17, 1917, and covered by certificate appointment dated January 1, 1918, is hereby revoked."

"Mr. Thomas J. Pardy of Bridgeport has been appointed a member and chairman of the Bridgeport Fuel Committee to act in your place and stead. I have also appointed additional members of the committee, W. P. Kirkland and R. W. Miller, both of Bridgeport."

"In the absence of Mr. Pardy, Mr. Kirk is designated as acting chairman and I would ask you kindly turn over to him the files, records and other property of the Bridgeport office of the United States Fuel Administrator on Saturday, March 9, at 10 a. m."

William F. Sheehan, whose office at 340 Golden Hill street, has been occupied by the fuel committee since December, said the new members would have full access to the place. Mr. Siemon was apparently disheartened when interviewed by reporters. He refused to take over the charges of Justice Wheeler. Siemon said:

"In reference to a letter which I received from Mr. Thomas W. Russell, State Fuel Administrator, under date of March 8, 1918, I beg to state that this is not a surprise but has been anticipated for some time and is only the culmination of a recent controversy resultant from local criticism of the action of the Fuel Administration of this city."

"About two weeks ago, Mr. Russell asked for my resignation, although at the same time praising the work of the local committee and approving its action. Under such conditions I decided not to resign but to continue the work along the lines I had been following and to await Mr. Russell's further actions, trusting that if he did insist on my dismissal that he would be fair-minded and just enough to also give reasons, stating why my work was unbecomingly action

was necessary. This, you will note from his letter, he has failed to do. "It was my intention to voluntarily resign when the fuel situation had passed its critical state, as a number of my friends know. Mr. Russell's letter above referred to saves me this effort, however, and I am glad to retire, pleased in the thought that I "did my bit" the best that I knew how and gave freely and unstintingly of my labor."

"No man can undertake public work of any magnitude and please and satisfy all and I am no exception. "I am leaving my work with animosity to no one and I stand ready and prepared at all times to again undertake any patriotic service that my country may call me for, no matter how great the sacrifice."

Administrator Russell was in Bridgeport this morning and at a meeting in the Superior Court building, that committee was reorganized. The committee now has five members instead of three. The old members, R. A. Beers and John J. Fisher, who have stuck with Siemon during the crisis, are in the minority.

Justice Wheeler's wish to have the coal office in the County Court building will be carried out for in a statement given out today by Acting Administrator Kirk, the fuel office will be on the first floor in that building.

Kirk's statement also declares that the new members, including Pardy, were appointed on the advice of the president of the Manufacturers' association, representative of the Chamber of Commerce and the Bridgeport members of the State Council of Defense, Justice Wheeler and W. R. Webster.

Kirk's first statement concludes: "Mr. Russell and the new fuel committee talked over plans for the future. Steps will be taken at once to ascertain the coal requirements of the next year and to provide for these."

Mr. Pardy is at present in Florida, and Mr. Kirk will be the acting chairman until his return. Before leaving Mr. Pardy prepared a general plan which the committee will use in its future work."

HUNGRY, THEY BRAVE BULLETS TO REACH FOOD

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, March 6.—(By The Associated Press.)—The enemy apparently has something he is planning against our troops in the sector northwest of Toul. His camouflage constructions at certain places have suddenly been doubled in height and much work is going on within the line.

Last night an American on patrol who understood German heard the conversation within a German trench: "Come here, Fritz, take this pick and pry that stone loose and then throw that dirt out. Those ——— over there. We work all night to fix things here and they blow them to hell in the daytime."

The made in the American patrol who made a sudden dash for the American trenches from a shell hole near the German trenches where they had been hiding, have explained why they started out in broad daylight on their backward sprint. "They had lost their way in the No Man's Land and got into the shell hole after wandering for several hours. Finally the men got hungry and all of them decided they would rather take a chance with German bullets than go any longer without food and water."

The sun came out today, drying out the ground and the trenches and the men's damp clothing.

DEVENS MEN ARE NOW ON DUTY AT FIGHTING FRONT

Camp Devens, March 9.—Now that Washington dispatches are being sent out releasing information concerning the American army in France, figures on troop movements from this camp are believed to be permissible. Exact figures are not at hand, but estimates put the contributions of men for overseas duty from this cantonment at from 12,000 to 20,000 men. These men are now, or will be soon, attached to the corps troops, of which Washington makes mention, as the integral parts of the fighting army.

It is estimated, also, that this large contribution of men, from this camp is one of the highest, if not the highest, in the country, at least in point of percentage. The fact that so many men from the New England division were called upon for almost immediate service is considered a high compliment to the type and efficiency of the men of the 76th Division and also General Hodges and his officers in bringing them to such high standards in such a short time.

In round figures there have been about 55,000 men at this cantonment. Of this number about 10,000 were volunteers. The rest were drafted men. From the total number of men, about 25,000 have been transferred from this cantonment, at least 10,000 having been sent South. Most of these men have been used to fill gaps in the depleted ranks of the 26th Division. Many of these have probably gone abroad with these divisions. Some of those sent South are at schools.

Of the remainder of the troops transferred, the majority have gone overseas. The first contributions to the overseas force consisted of 1,500 men transferred to the 26th Division, now at the front line trenches. From that time to the present there have been from time to time movements of troops from the cantonment, most of whom were probably destined for overseas duty. Some of these men are engaged in special duty in France, such as military police work, but the majority are destined to be, believed, for service in the field army.

How to move 25,000,000 bushels of potatoes now in the hands of Wisconsin and Michigan growers, will be taken up at a conference in Chicago of government officials.

MOTHER AND 19-YR.-OLD DAUGHTER DEAD OF GAS

COUPLE EXPIRE IN ROOM BACK OF STORE MOTHER HAD
CONDUCTED IN STILLMAN STREET—GAS STOVE JET
HAD BEEN ACCIDENTALLY LEFT OPEN.

Mrs. Bessie Maltzman, 45, of 281 Stillman street, and her daughter Dinah, 19 years, were found dead in bed from the effect of gas poisoning at half past six this morning. Dr. Gavias, raced in the ambulance of the Emergency hospital to save their lives only to find that death had claimed the two women a few minutes before his arrival.

The two women were asleep in the room directly back of the little grocery store which Mrs. Maltzman conducts at the Stillman street address. This room is also used as a kitchen, and Mrs. Maltzman has been in the habit of arising at 6 o'clock to prepare breakfast for her son Herman who sleeps in a room upstairs.

When Herman came downstairs for his breakfast at 6:30 this morning he found the door leading to the kitchen locked and could get no answer to his knocking. He then broke down the door and found his mother and sister unconscious and the gas pouring from a fixture leading to the gas stove.

In vain he tried to arouse his mother and sister. Finally, realizing that every moment was precious, he hurried to a telephone and called the

RUSSIANS AND RUMANIA CONCLUDE PEACE TREATY

London, March 9.—Conclusion of peace between Russia and Rumania is announced in a Russian wireless despatch received here today. Rumania promises to evacuate all of Bessarabia, including Benderi, on the Dniester river 40 miles southeast of Kishinev, within two months.

Russia and Rumania have been at odds for several months and a number of battles have been fought by the former allies. Rumanian troops disarmed Russian forces left in Rumania after the conclusion of peace with Germany, saying the Russians were plundering Rumanian towns. Rumanian troops were sent into Bessarabia, a Russian province populated largely by Rumanians, saying they had been asked by the Bessarabian authorities to intervene and restore order. The Russians made a number of ineffectual attempts to subdue the Rumanians and several weeks ago issued an order for the arrest of King Ferdinand of Rumania.

GERMANY TRIES TO CAMOUFLAGE ITS AIR LOSSES

Paris, March 9.—Germans are trying to conceal their airplane losses and augment those of the Entente Allies, according to French officials. Their last communiqué on the subject said that "in December the enemy lost 119 aircraft. We have lost in aerial combats 32 airplanes and two captive balloons."

French authorities report that in December the English brought down 65 German machines and the French 41, making a total of 106 instead of 84 admitted by the Germans. The French claim of enemy machines does not include 33 German machines which were seen to fall but the loss of which has not been officially confirmed. The combined British and French aerial losses during December were 43 machines instead of 128 claimed by Germany. Of these British lost 32 and the French 11.

The German "camouflage" in the communiqué is found in the words "in aerial combats." It is pointed out that the Germans forgot to include the number of their machines brought down by anti-aircraft guns of the Allies while they claim the loss of all their machines seen to fall within their own lines and many of which are virtually undamaged.

REFUSES TO TRY ACTION AGAINST MAN IN SERVICE

Hartford, March 9.—"The court will not try any case of a soldier in service unless he wants it tried," said Judge Lucien F. Burpee yesterday in the Superior Court, in refusing to assign for jury trial the suit of Antonia Pasa against Dr. Abraham B. Gross, who is at Camp Devens. Judge A. C. Bill for the plaintiff had asked for the assignment of the case as he said the defendant had notice weeks ago that the case would be claimed and there had been ample time for disposition.

CUT OUT MORE WHEAT, SAYS U. S.

Hartford, Conn., March 9.—Revocation by the national food administration of the regulation which made exceptions to the 50-50 basis in purchase of wheat and substitutes affects Connecticut only in regard to potatoes. This state was on a 50-50 basis except that potatoes were a one-to-four substitute. Now potatoes are not a substitute, and all purchases of wheat flour must carry with them an equal amount of substitutes.

In a telegram to the food administration at the capital yesterday, Mr. Hoover emphasized the need of a more abundant meal with meat for a laborer, and the need of wheat, adhering, however, to the beefless and porkless Tuesdays.

PAY HALF WAGE FOR THEIR FOOD

Washington, March 8.—The seriousness of the cost of living problem in Germany is shown in figures announced today by the department of labor which state that \$2.14 per cent of the average German family's expenditures is paid for food.

185 CAULKERS DELAY 50 SHIPS IN PUGET YARDS

Washington, March 9.—With high officials of the Allies and the United States impressing more and more the absolute need of ships to make possible the American military offensive in Europe, the shipbuilding program has encountered another serious delay through the unwillingness of a small group of organized laboring men to give a full measure of co-operation in speeding up production.

It was disclosed yesterday that a number of wooden ships on the Pacific coast are ready for launching and are being held on the ways because they cannot be caulked for the water. In the Seattle or Puget Sound district a union of 185 caulkers has refused to permit its members to work with the men, and have paid no heed to insistence that the union be increased to meet the situation which demands at least 600 caulkers.

Appeals to William L. Hutcheson, leader of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, by the Shipping Board for aid have brought the response that while the Carpenters' union has greatly needed men listed and ready for this work, that the organization feels it must reach an understanding on demands made for representation on the Labor Adjustment Board of the Emergency Fleet Corporation before it will be free to act.

These caulkers are getting a base pay now of \$7 a day for eight hours a day and a half for overtime. Their average is said to be \$10 a day, and they are insisting on overtime as a condition of employment, and in addition have asked a base pay of \$10 a day for an eight hour day.

The Shipping Board and Emergency Fleet Corporation have appealed to the Puget Sound caulkers in vain, and officials are preparing to advertise for patriotic union men to go to the yards. This procedure has been held up for days in an effort to avoid an open rupture with the caulkers' organization in this district. There, however, seems no other solution.

Samuel Compere, president of the American Federation of Labor, and a large majority of other high officials of the Federation and the big international unions are doing all in their power to speed shipbuilding, but a number of groups are obdurate. The caulkers are affiliated with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

There are 225 wooden ships building on the Pacific coast it was said by Shipping Board officials today and there is sufficient timber and other materials now available to increase the number to 400 if labor were available. Instead of making this increase, however, it seems the number now under construction may have to be cut down unless the labor question can be settled.

Fifty of the coast vessels could be put in the water in March, it is said, if caulkers were available to finish the seams on time.

Officials here, however, are despairing of getting them in the water for at least another month.

In an endeavor to enlist the aid of the Puget Sound District union, William Piggott, district manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, sent this letter to O. H. Brown, president of the union:

"Dear Sir: We beg to call your earnest and patriotic attention to the very serious conditions which have prevailed in this district for the last 60 days, which conditions are now becoming more serious than ever because of the fact there is not a sufficient number of caulkers in the northwest to finish the wood ships now under construction and those that must be completed later in order to win the war."

"The wood shipbuilding program of the Emergency Fleet Corporation calls for at least 162 ships to be launched between now and the end of December, 1918, and at least 100 more as rapidly as they can be built. This extensive program during this time when the need for ships is imperative is progressing as satisfactorily as can be expected for the caulking."

"It is estimated that it will take approximately 1,000 men to caulk one vessel or a total of 162,000 man-days to caulk all the vessels which must be put into the water before January 1, 1919. Figuring approximately 370 working days left in this year and dividing this into the total of 162,000 means that approximately 600 caulkers will be needed to do this work and this does not include consideration necessary repair work."

"There have been many discussions between shipbuilders and the caulkers' organization in regard to the absolute necessity for more caulkers. Little, however, up to the present time has been accomplished and the result is that the necessary ships are not ready to launch which are being held on the ways to be caulked and the situation daily is growing worse."

"While we have had plenty of evidence of the fact that the shipbuilding program is being delayed for want of caulkers, action has been deferred in the hope that yourself and the wood shipbuilders would be able to work out a satisfactory solution."

"In the meantime overtime work has been not only necessary but a condition has arisen whereby overtime work has been insisted upon by caulkers as condition of employment, it is recognized that this is a time when every man must and will have to do more than he would in normal times."

"It has been shown, however, both in this country and abroad that excessively long hours undermine the health of the workers and decrease their efficiency in the long run. For these reasons organized labor has insisted on the present number of caulkers by at least 400 men."

"This excess overtime, which has been insisted upon by the caulkers as well as the fact that their wages have been increased until they are out of proportion to those of other skilled workers, has occasioned a considerable amount of unrest in connection with the building of wood ships."

"As we understand it, the total number of caulkers now connected with your organization is approximately 185. There is nothing that can be done to relieve the situation except to increase the present number of caulkers by at least 400 men."

"As every effort seems now to have been exhausted to secure the immediate relief which is necessary we have arrived at a point where we cannot wait longer and must take action. Action on our part has been postponed with the desire not to precipitate matters in any way which would be

LONE YANKEE SENTRY ROUTES FORTY BOCHES, REPELLED WITH LOSS

GERMAN RAIDING PARTY FLEES AS SINGLE
SOLDIER KILLS LEADER, AND INFLECTS OTHER
LOSSES—HUNS ABANDONED GUNS.

CECIL DECLARES FEAR FOR SIBERIA IN THE FUTURE

London, March 9.—Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, in a statement, yesterday pointed out the seriousness of the German menace in Siberia and urged Japanese intervention there. He added:

"We have information today that German prisoners in Siberia are being organized and that a Prussian general has been sent to take charge of them."

In Trans-Caucasia, said Lord Robert, certain elements of the Bolsheviks, acting in collusion with German and Turkish agents, have adopted openly an anti-Entente attitude and barred out the British mission which was going to help the Armenians. They have cut British wire communications through north Persia with Tiflis and south Russia.

Lord Robert said he had received assurances that many Russians would welcome a Japanese expedition to prevent the Germanization of Siberia. He added:

"In fact, I cannot conceive any patriotic Russian who would not prefer the assistance of a friendly power, aiming at the restoration of order, to conquest by a ruthless and unprincipled enemy."

"The Japanese alone can act effectively in the present crisis. If they are intrusted by the allies with the duty of going to the assistance of Russia against Germany, I am sure they will carry out the task with perfect loyalty and great efficiency."

"From the outset of our alliance with Japan she has carried out with great fidelity all her obligations as an ally. We always have found her scrupulously loyal in the performance of her obligations."

"I do not think it is generally realized how tremendously serious the German penetration of Russia really is, or what a gigantic scheme of world conquest the Germans now have undertaken. It would be in the highest degree foolish, if not criminal, if the Entente failed to take every step possible to frustrate this German scheme."

"Therefore I personally believe we would be well advised to seek the assistance of Japan in a matter in which she, and she alone, can do effective service."

DECLARE THIRTY CENT REDUCTION IN COAL PRICES

Washington, March 9.—Regulations designed to prevent coal hoarding and at the same time insure the filling of household needs for next winter furnished by the food administration today in announcing an average reduction of 30 cents a ton in the retail price of anthracite coal for domestic use. The reduced price will apply for six month period from April 1 to September 1.

Although no reduction in bituminous coal was made, consumers the fuel administration began a revision of soft coal prices at the mines with the idea of applying a new scale before the beginning of the coal year April 1. The administration also ordered a penalty reduction of 50 cents a ton in the price of coal which is found to contain a large percentage of impurities.

100 SLAUGHTERED IN MEXICAN RAID

Mexico City, March 9.—One hundred persons were slaughtered by Zapata's men in their latest known raid on February 2, according to statements made by General Jose Cabrera. Taking advantage of the smallness of the garrison in the little town of Aguila, a force of 200 men of the force of Zapata adherents, estimated at 2,000 captured the place, killing 100 peaceful inhabitants and committing every sort of an outrage upon the defenseless men, women and children.

According to General Cabrera, he immediately led a force of government troops to Agua Blanca and routed the rebels after inflicting serious losses. General Cabrera is in command of military operations in the southern part of the state of Mexico.

WILSON APPROVES SCHOOL GARDENS

Washington, March 9.—President Wilson, in a letter to Secretary Lane, expresses the hope that "every school will have a regiment in the volunteer war garden army—the army of school children."

annoying or irritating, either to the caulkers or the shipbuilders, but as the life of the nation at stake, as well as the lives of thousands of our men across the seas, we feel justified and now find it necessary to definitely instruct all yards now building wood ships for the government to use such men or such machinery as they deem necessary to insure all vessels being caulked and put into the water on contract time. Under such instructions every effort will be made to continue to work through your organization."

"We have attempted in this letter to state the case very frankly to you. Your cooperation is invited to make it possible to launch the maximum number of ships during this year."

With the American Army in France, Thursday, March 7.—(By the Associated Press.)—A lone American sentry this morning attacked an enemy patrol of about 40 men, some of whom had stealthily entered an advanced American trench. He drove them off, killing the leader and wounding others.

The first reports of the encounter were that another raid had taken place, and all along the line details were being awaited eagerly. But investigation showed that one American sentry what there was of an offensive.

The name of this man is mentioned in all reports of the affair, and he has been congratulated by his officers and comrades for his courage and level-headedness.

The sentry saw the patrol advancing, and looked on as the Germans began to drop cautiously into the trench. He knew that an American patrol was out along the wire not far away, and counted upon its help after he opened fire. There were four men in the American patrol. By the time five Germans had entered the trench the sentry thought he should delay no longer, especially as the under-officer who was leading the German had approached within a few yards of him.

The sentry opened fire rapidly without challenge. The German leader fell at the first crack of the rifle. The others in the trench hurriedly sought protection, but they were not quick enough, for the sentry's bullets caught some of them.

As the Americans began firing a German some distance outside the wire shouted: "Come out, come out." The Germans needed no second invitation. In fact, those who were still in the wire already had started out. The small American patrol saw the enemy trailing back across No Man's Land, under fire from the sentry and from Americans at a point further along the line. The patrol joined in the fray and helped to speed the Germans on their way by hurling a large number of hand grenades, some of which probably took effect. Four rifles were found in the American lines.

Patrols, both American and German, are constantly seeking opportunity to inspect the opposing lines, and the Germans on this occasion certainly did not wish to be discovered. They cut the American wire with the greatest caution, making no noise, but the sentry who later drove them off was watching their performance all the time.

American troops in the sector northwest of Toul have been subjected for the first time to an attack with liquid fire. Enemy troops carrying flame projectors were just opening the attack when an American patrol which happened to be nearby fired on them. The Germans fled precipitately, pursued by the Americans. They dropped four projectors, two of which were flaming. The Americans went into action so quickly that the enemy had no chance to light the other two. No damage was done by the flames. The projectors lay in No Man's Land for three days. Early this morning the Germans on their way back were brought in by an American patrol. All had been punctured by shots from the American trenches.

Late this evening the projectors were taken to headquarters. They were strapped to the backs of the men, who brought them from No Man's Land, and moving pictures were taken. They are of a type long familiar on the western front.

Enemy snipers have been exceptionally busy in the last 24 hours at a certain point, with more or less success. Various parts of the American corps were bombarded, without suffering great damage. Many valuable points in the German positions were bombarded with success by the American artillery. A gap in the wire through which the Germans apparently thought patrols were emerging was covered with bursts of machine gun fire all night long, and even today.

An enemy observation balloon in the rear of Montsec caught fire this morning and was hauled down. There was great activity in the air all day, following the bombing expeditions of last night, during which the Germans threw down dead parachutists, the American lines bombarded with incendiary and heavy shells. They set the fuses and dropped them from their planes, but the only result was to dig large holes in the ground.

American anti-aircraft guns drove off several enemy machines of the many which crossed the lines today. One enemy plane was driven down out of control behind the German line after an aerial battle which thrilled the men in the trenches.

ONLY INDIAN IN U. S. NAVY WEDS

Base American Flotilla in British Waters, March 9.—The only full-blooded American Indian in the United States naval forces over here has just been married. He is Frank M. Puryear, seaman, gunner's class, and hails from Villanow, Georgia. While his destroyer was visiting at an English port he met Dorothy Hapton of Newport, England. Their marriage was not long delayed.

Puryear is a Cherokee Indian and a direct descendant from the tribe which formerly roamed those southern plains east of the Mississippi. As such he still has a claim to participate in the funds arising from payments made by the United States government to the Cherokee for lands invaded by the white man. Puryear holds a deed to certain property rights as a member of the Cherokee.